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POL 23-9 GREECE

(76)

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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1. FOLLOWING [ ] REPORT PROVIDED BY [

[ ] QUOTE THE GREEK ARMY REMAINED IN TIGHT CONTROL TODAY BACKING A "NATIONAL" MILITARY GOVERNMENT HEADED BY A SUPREME COURT PROSECUTOR.

2. PREMIER CONSTANTINE KOLLIAS HEADS THE NEW GOVERNMENT ALONG WITH LT. GEN GREGORY SPANDIDAKIS, VICE PREMIER AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE, WHO WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE LED THE ARMY COUP. OTHERS IN THE GOVERNMENT ARE: BRIG. GEN STYLIANOS PATACOS, INTERIOR MINISTER; COL. NICHOLAS MAKAREZOS, COORDINATION; AND COL. GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS, HEAD OF PRESS AND INFORMATION AND MINISTER TO THE PREMIER'S OFFICE.

3. LIFE RETURNED TO NORMAL AS A DUSK-TO-DAWN CURFEW ENDED AFTER A TENSION-PACKED NIGHT FILLED WITH SPORADIC SHOOTING IN AND AROUND THE GREEK CAPITAL. THERE WERE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT AT LEAST ONE PERSON WAS KILLED AND TEN INJURED FROM GUNFIRE.

4. POLITICAL LEADERS AND ABOUT 8,500 KNOWN LEFTISTS REMAINED IN CUSTODY IN MILITARY DETENTION CENTERS. TROOPS IN FULL BATTLE DRESS STANDING BESIDE TANKS, BLOCKED OFF ENTRANCES TO PARLIAMENT AND GUARDED PTT CENTERS. TRAFFIC AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION RETURNED TO NORMAL.

5. PREMIER KOLLIAS CALLED FOR CALM AND ORDER AND FOR CITIZENS TO GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS.

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6. NEWSPAPERS WERE NOT ALLOWED TO GO TO PRESS. THE ARMED FORCES RADIO STATION CONTINUED TO BROADCAST THE PREMIER'S MESSAGE TO THE NATION BUT THREW NO LIGHT ON WHAT THE GOVERNMENT'S NEXT MOVE MIGHT BE.

7. MARSHAL LAW REMAINED IN EFFECT.

8. MINISTRIES REMAINED CLOSED AS WELL AS SCHOOLS, BUT THE GOVERNMENT URGED THE POPULACE TO RETURN TO THEIR JOBS. STRIKES WERE OUTLAWED.

9. THOUSANDS OF WORKERS REMAINED HOME, FEARFUL OF THE UNCERTAIN SITUATION.

10. SOME INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS WERE PERMITTED TO TAKE OFF EARLY THIS MORNING WHILE SCORES OF AIRLINERS SAT ON THE TARMAC AWAITING PERMISSION TO DEPART.

11. IT STILL WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE ARMY HAD THE FULL BACKING OF THE KING, NAVY AND AIR FORCE.

12. AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT SAID THAT NAVY [illegible] ADMIRAL ENGAFOPOULOS WAS ARRESTED BY ARMY LEADERS YESTERDAY WHEN HE REFUSED TO COOPERATE. THE INFANTRY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE WERE NOT REPRESENTED IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT REPORTED SEEKING ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO FILL KEY CABINET POSTS.

13. THE ROYAL PROCLAMATION DECLARING AN ARMY TAKEOVER DID NOT SPECIFY THAT THE 26-YEAR-OLD KING APPROVED OF THE ARMY'S COUP. HOW LONG THE PRESENT SITUATION WOULD REMAIN WAS UNKNOWN BUT WORLD REACTION TO THE LIGHTNING COUP WAS MOUNTING.

14. DEMINSTRATORS IN COPENHAGEN DEMANDED THAT "KING CONSTANTINE BE HANGED" AND THAT HIS DANISH-BORN WIFE ANNE-MARIE RETURN HOME.

15. DESPITE THE LACK OF GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS, ONE THING WAS CERTAIN: THAT ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 28 WERE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. END QUOTE

DECON 4/23/67 TALBOT

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O AT 6:00 A.M. APRIL 22, 1967
PASSED: WHITE HOUSE, DOD, CIA, USIA, NSA, AT 6:00 A.M. APRIL 22, 1967